

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

11. (currently amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of calcium deficiencies in a mammal having or at risk of calcium deficiency comprising the steps of enterally administering to the mammal a nutritional composition comprising one or more *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of arriving in a living state in intestines of the mammal, wherein the nutritional composition is not a fermented nutritional composition.

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the *lactobacilli* is a *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

13. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria comprises a *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

14. (previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition is a liquid and comprises about 10^7 to about 10^{11} cfu/ml of the *Lactobacillus* bacteria.

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition facilitates the absorption of minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc or combinations thereof.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition comprises milk proteins.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein the nutritional composition comprises an infant formula including hypo-allergenic milk protein hydrolysates.

18. (previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition comprises prebiotic fibers.

19. (currently amended) A method for increasing absorption of calcium from a diet comprising the steps of enterally administering to a mammal requiring increased calcium absorption a nutritional composition comprising one or more *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of arriving in a living state in intestines of the mammal, wherein the nutritional composition is not a fermented nutritional composition.

20. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein the minerals comprise calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc or combinations thereof.

21. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein the *lactobacilli* comprises a *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

22. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria comprises a *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

23. (currently amended) A method for improving the absorption of calcium in a mammal comprising the steps of enterally administering to the mammal requiring increased calcium absorption a nutritional composition comprising one or more *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of arriving in a living state in intestines of the mammal, wherein the nutritional composition is not a fermented nutritional composition.

24. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria is capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

25. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria comprises a *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23 wherein the nutritional composition is a liquid and comprises about 10^7 to about 10^{11} cfu/ml of the *Lactobacillus* bacteria.